

BECKER SHOWS SIGNS OF GIVING IN TO RELIGION

Willing Now to Listen to
Father Cashin, but Not
Yet to Yield.

VENT FOR HIS RAGE IN HANDBALL GAMES

OSBORN, N. Y., May 30.—"You are up against it, Charley. There's no chance for you. You are facing eternity and your only hope lies in saving your soul."

Charles Becker, twice convicted of the murder of Herman Rosenthal, stood today in his death cell in Sing Sing with a pale face and downcast eyes. Beside him was Father William F. Cashin, Catholic chaplain of the prison, uttering those words. The priest was seeking, quietly and gently, to win Becker over to a spiritual understanding of his fate.

But Becker was angry, just "plain mad" through and through, as Father Cashin expressed it. He stood with his hands clenched as he sought to retain control of himself in the presence of the priest. It was the Becker of the "strong arm squad" days, big, powerful, fighting against the inevitable, against the spiritual thoughts that the priest was trying to persuade him to accept.

"All right," answered Becker with an angry smile of his face. "If there's a God who am I, an innocent man, here today?"

Chaplain is confident.

That was Becker the skeptic changed from Becker the agnostic and blasphemous of a few days ago. He was ready to hear what Providence should place him so near the electric chair when less than a week ago he had expected so confidently to go free. The priest felt that there had been a change in Becker's mood.

It was the first meeting of the two since Wednesday. Becker, enraged by the decision of the Court of Appeals denying him a new trial, had renounced his religion, flouted the idea of a God, and blasphemed the things that are counted sacred, denounced Whittman and refused to have anything to do with Father Cashin as a priest. But the chaplain still, as his friend who had played handball with him and given him encouragement, he liked.

To Father Cashin the struggle that Becker is going through is not new. He has given spiritual consolation to many men in the prison. And he is confident that Becker will gradually come around to face the situation calmly.

So today Father Cashin talked with Becker and showed him why he must accept the decision of the Court of Appeals and prepare himself for death. He cited incidents to prove that it is not possible for the finite mind to comprehend the doings of the Infinite. The priest has faith in the ultimate return of Becker to the faith which he accepted after his first conviction.

Held Characteristic.

In fact the breaking away of Becker in the last few days from a belief in God is regarded as characteristic of a man of his great physical strength and with his faculty for leadership and command of men. The priest regards it as characteristic of the man who, he believes, should rise up and combat the spiritual Becker that has been developed in the death cell.

That Becker had found consolation in the Bible and prayer books—which, by the way, he handled to other inmates of the death house only the day before the decision of the court—was not so confident was he of going out—his shown by the help he gave to other men condemned to death.

The Becker who was combating the idea of Divine Providence was spiritual adviser to Happy Jack Mulroney, who was convicted of the murder of William J. Harrison. He prayed with Mulroney throughout the night and then Mulroney got a reprieve a few hours before the hour set for his death. It was Becker who taught the Lord's Prayer to Lee Hing, one of three Chinamen recently sent to the chair.

Though Becker had urged others to be strong in their religious faith in their last hours, he broke away himself when the big test came.

"You're up against the big test now," the priest told him in that talk in the cell. "You are coming to understand what real faith means."

The priest said afterward that Becker was slowly changing from what Cardinal Newman termed "the national assent" to the "real assent." In other words, on Wednesday Becker was a man such as only a man of his great physical strength and powerful will was capable of.

Vent for His Rage.

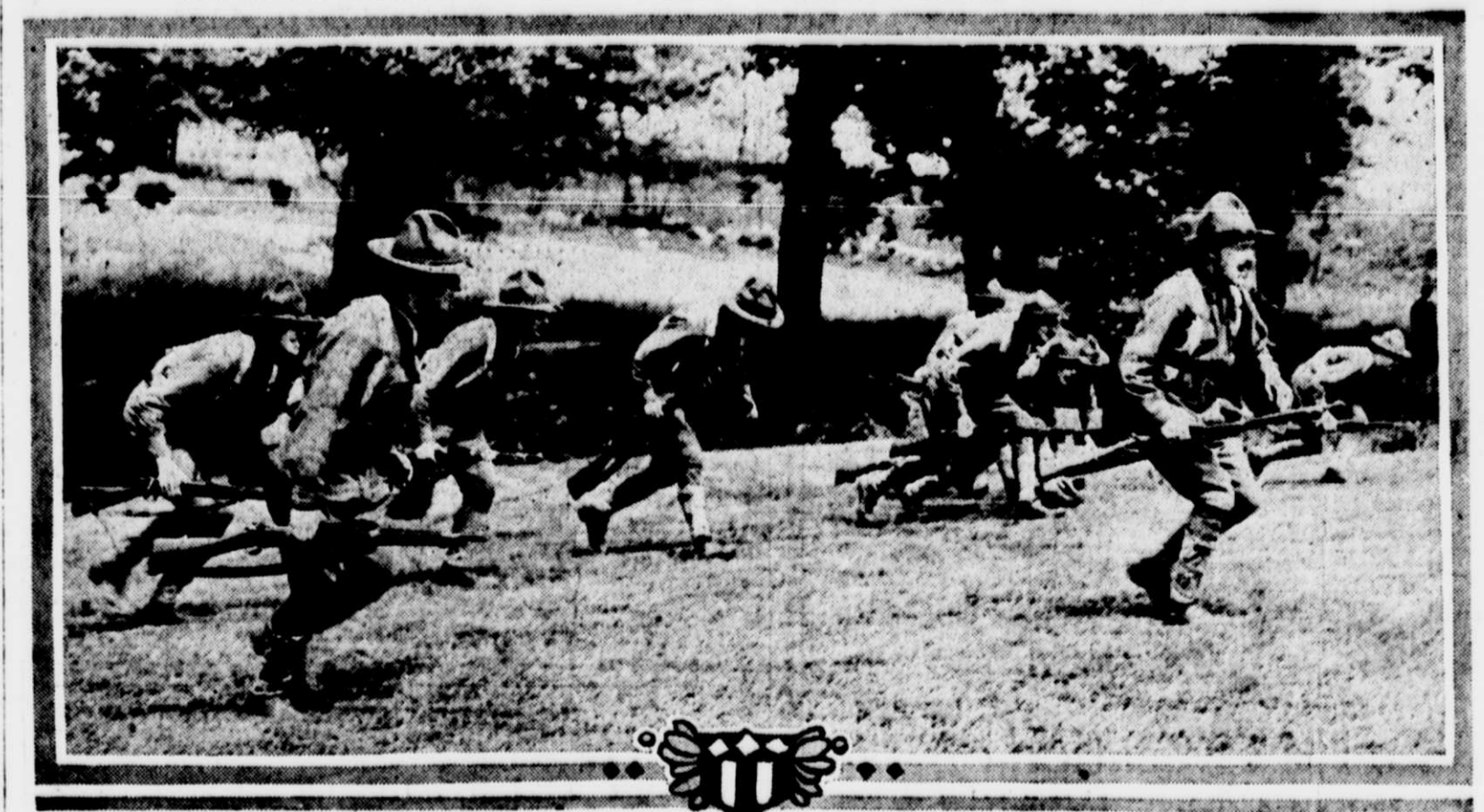
Since then he had gone out on the handball court in the hours set aside for exercise and had played with other condemned men. There he had given physical vent to his wrath. With terrific strength he had hit the ball—as he would have loved to strike down the enemies who, he believes, are responsible for his incarceration in the death cell. Gradually he had worked off part of his anger. To-day, though still angry, he was ready to listen, but not to yield.

Father Cashin told him that he, Becker, must work out the problem himself. That he must make up his mind to endure the sorrow and suffering that he must bear all those things alone. But when the priest left the cell he had not won Becker over. It seemed clear to him, however, with eyes of study in men on the verge of death and counseling with them, that Becker would soon ask again for communion.

How great was the shock to Becker when he realized that his conviction would stand was learned to-day through his preparations to leave the prison. Only a few days before the decision Becker was packing up his things. He gave his fountain pen to a man who had become his friend. There was not a flicker of a doubt in his mind that he would go free.

Mrs. Becker arrived here at 1:30 this afternoon and spent more than two hours with her husband.

HOLIDAY THROUGS MADE WAR PRISONERS BY GUARDSMEN IN VAN CORTLANDT PARK BATTLE



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Company F, Seventy-first Regiment, making a charge in manoeuvres yesterday at Van Cortlandt Park.

Major-General John F. O'Ryan, commanding the National Guard of the State, surprised Company F, Seventy-first Regiment, by walking into its camp at Van Cortlandt Park yesterday afternoon. He saw this company, which was organized at his own direction for demonstration purposes, go through a drill and he was pleased at its work and at the inspection which he made of the camp and the division club for officers recently opened in the old Deane's mansion near by.

Then Major-General O'Ryan, who is going to deliver an address this afternoon to the graduating officers of the New York School of the Line, now quartered in this division house, saw Troop C of Squadron A ride out of its camp, near Company F's, to carry out a tactical problem.

Sergeant Latham Reed, who was elected a Lieutenant the night before, led all of the cavalry troop except a few of the men up to Yonkers. There they became, according to orders, the advance cavalry patrol of an invading army. They were the Reds. A half a mile north of the division house this force met the outflanking force of a delaying force from the south, swallowed up its first patrol, concentrated its troops and penetrated the Blues, forcing the patrol of the resisting force to fall back upon its reserves, capturing the parade ground in Van Cortlandt Park and making theoretical prisoners of hundreds of sightseers in the park.

The engagement between the Reds and the Blues troops lasted an hour. Each man had twenty rounds of blank ammunition.

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It is from the porch of this house that Brig-Gen. Albert T. Mills, chief of the Division of Militia Affairs at Washington, will give out the diplomas this afternoon to the twenty officers who will be graduated from the School of the Line, a school which was begun this year for the first time for the higher education of officers.

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There were many visitors to the camp of Company F and at the division club yesterday. Among them were Col. A. T. Townsend and Lieut.-Col. H. S. Stemberger of the Quartermaster's department at headquarters. All of the officers of the division and the special training of three days a week it has been getting. They praised the officers of the school and the school which will produce the right kind of militiamen.

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"At present industrial America is producing at least a third less than it ought to produce," he said. "It is also using perhaps a third less labor than it ought to use. Why is this? It is because our great captains of industry have found that they can make more money by exploiting the labor of their mills, mines and factories as much product as they can sell to the public at fancy prices."

Those in the means by which this restriction of product and killing of prices is accomplished is largely the control over transportation that private ownership of railroads gives to the dominating group in each industry. Through the alliance between our great industrial producers and our railroads the former sweep through the three-story building of our business but to keep on producing from getting into business. In this way they hold down the wages of the laborer and drive out of other commodities that are made and sold to the people of the United States.

"But," you say, "cannot the Interstate Commerce Commission make the rates of freight and passenger fares reasonable?" The answer is emphatically "No." They do not and cannot and cannot. Even now the Interstate Commerce Commission makes the rates of freight and passenger fares reasonable. The answer is emphatically "No." They do not and cannot and cannot. Even now the Interstate Commerce Commission makes the rates of freight and passenger fares reasonable.

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MENS SUITS

Get-Ready Notice of a Record Sale to Be
Held in the Man's Store Wednesday

No man who spends his money wisely will want to miss it.
Details will be published in Tuesday's Evening Sun.

JOHN WANAMAKER
Broadway at Ninth, New York

FRANK'S LAST PLEA AFTER 2 YEAR FIGHT

Case Goes to Pardon Board To-day on Anniversary of Mary Phagan's Murder.

ATLANTA, May 30.—Everything else is overshadowed by the interest to-night in Georgia in the hearing to take place to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock before the State Prison Commission of the appeal of Leo M. Frank for commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment.

Mary Phagan, for whose murder Frank was sentenced to die, was killed two years ago on Memorial Day. Since that time the prisoner has conducted a fight for liberty extending through every State court, through the Federal courts and twice to the United States Supreme Court. Now all chance of immediate freedom is gone and only the hope of a life sentence is left.

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